Pls return to Cointelpro file

Harold Weisberg
Rt. 8, Frederick, Md. 21701
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Dear Congressman Edwards,

On the chance it can be helpful to you I have sent you a copy of the new book to which I have referred in the past.

Jim Lesar and I had intended giving a copy to all Members of both Houses. However, with all the other matters to which our extensive attentions were obligatory and in the absence of any help, this was impossible. We'd hope to provide Members with the content relevant to POI considerations and to those of the integrity of the federal word, even under oath.

If any of your colleagues would like copies I'd appreciate franked labels. If I receive any without a letter, I'll understand what it means and no letter will be

A hasty glance at today's Post's early edition discloses no story on your yesterday's hearings. I know of them only the little that was on TV this morning. I regard this legislative interest as among those most essential to deter deterring the authoritarianism than no longer creeps. I also believe that what is encompassed by the designation "Cointelpro" is not the complete activity of that general nature and that this kind of activity did not begin when it was given this formal name.

And I know that the FBI is not the only agency to engage in this kind of activity within the United States. As an example I cite the Heine case in federal district court in Baltimore.

When I received reports that I was the object of FBI surveillance of this nature I wrote Attorney General Mitchell who pontificated that of course such activity would be improper and that he was referring my letter to Hoover. I never received even pro forma denial from Hoover or anyone else in the FBI or DJ. And I did try, in writing.

There is regular surveillance on the public appearances of Americans, within the United States, contracted to private agencies. I have a complete workup on one and its services for a CIA front as this relates to me. Carbons of my remarks, bills for them, checks in payment, bank account - even an envelope and several names. I'll be trying to sell a story on this now that your committee has developed an interest in related matters. I was not able to interest the Senate when it held entirely inadequate hearings on the [illegible]

When I can I intend to take this to court. I also have other interests in your current hearings. Despite a past in which I have not been able to receive anything from your office, I do hope you will provide copies of these hearings and if possible the recent Justice and FBI statements. My experience is that they will not even give me a copy of a published press release. Not even when in one they sought to answer charges in an unpublished book of which even my printer did not have a copy and only four others, three in publishing and one in TV, did. It will be the middle of December before I can begin to make this new effort. If there is anything you can provide before then, it will enable me to prepare for the time when my lawyer may have the time and perhaps I may be able to feed back to you.

Lesar and I have been and will have to be doing the bulk of the work in the case of James Earl Ray. The Constitutional violations of which we now have documentary proof make those of the Ellsberg case seem modest and decent. There was federal involvement in those violations, beginning if not limited to the initial planning of them. I can show you copies if this falls within your legislative responsibilities or interests but we are not able to afford the stenographic transcript of the recent testimony that adds to the information in the documents we obtained in early October. On at least the state

level these continued after there was no doubt that I had irrefutable proof and the State of Tennessee had proof that I had the proof. I presume sharing with the FBI of the fruit of the improper activity. It continued through the recent hearing. If it has now stopped it is only because of steps I have taken with Tennessee authorities.

I am aware of your mandate so I don't know the range or extent of your interest.

The arrogance of public authority is more incredible after The Watergate. When Lesar and I were engaged in (unprecedented) discovery the first week of October my room was entered and searched. Because I'd anticipated it would be I set a trap that was sprung as no maid would have done it. As you know, these people don't leave calling cards and I can't attribute this to the FBI. However, thereafter the State's overt interest in me, reminiscent of what in my youth was called "rough shadowing," included knowledge that I do assume the State did not obtain from either its own files or investigations and do assume is in federal files. I was not, of course, at issue [illegible] part of the defense team, its investigator. And there are indications - not proof but reason to believe - that my room at least was bugged. When I was developing and did prepare for court presentation proof of repetitious false swearing by the FBI assigning motive does not seem to stretch the imagination excessively.

This testimony that the FBI did, consciously, swear falsely was not only not rebutted. There was no cross-examination of it.

In the book now on its way to you you will find only some of the other illustrations of this. There has been deliberate deception of the court and false swearing in each of the four Freedom of Information suits I have filed. Mr. Silbert is a participant in one, as you will see.

From their reports to me the people have lost their jobs over innocent association with me. The most recent case - this month - includes surveillance. I do not know by whom. An earlier case is that of a black writer who had a public-relations job with an airline. I taped his phoned report of what happened to him after I gave him the research for a book I would not have time to write. That tape includes Washington names, apparently of private people with access to FBI supposedly secret files.

If there is any way within my capabilities in which I can help this also important work in which you are engaged, I will.

And if this is again to become the land of the free, it will have to be the home of the brave(r).

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg